

Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office



Personnel Accounting and Recovery

Welcome to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office. We would like to begin by addressing our sacred mission, "Keeping the Promise" namely, the efforts of the U.S. Government to recover and account for Americans who, while in the service of the nation, become isolated, captured or missing as a result of hostile action.



Administration Commitment



"We will not rest until we have made the fullest possible accounting for every life."

--November 11, 2004, Veterans Day

Today, hundreds of thousands of Americans are serving in the United States Armed Forces and various U.S. Government agencies in pursuit of our national interests, very often in dangerous and inhospitable environments. They must be confident that should something happen to them in the course of their service, the U.S. Government will not abandon them. This is fundamental to our national character. The President and the entire U.S. government consider the quick recovery of isolated personnel and the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel a high national priority.



Senate Select Committee Recommendations



- Establish single POW/MIA office
- Consolidate functions
- Streamline flow of information to families

**Defense
POW/MIA
Office
Established
16 July 1993**

Since 1993, Congress has played a significant role in establishing and expanding the mission of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office—or to use the common acronym DPMO. Prior to DPMO's formation, four separate Washington-based Department of Defense offices managed and executed various aspects of the POW/MIA mission. In 1993, the final report by the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs recommended consolidating into a single office all responsibilities for achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing as a result of the Vietnam War. In July 1993, the consolidation resulted in a single office, DPMO.



FY96 Defense Authorization Act: Missing Service Personnel Act

- DoD policy, control, and oversight for all matters relating to missing persons, including those related to search, rescue, escape, and evasion
- Responsible for coordination among DoD, JCS, Combatant Commands, and the inter-agency community
- Establish uniform DoD policies for personnel recovery
- Establish procedures for DoD Boards of Inquiry

In 1995, Congress, through The Missing Service Personnel Act, directed the Secretary of Defense to further refine and consolidate the Department's efforts to account for missing service personnel by establishing an office responsible for all matters relating to missing persons— not simply those missing as a result of past conflicts. In accordance with this legislation and the direction of the Secretary of Defense, we assumed the additional responsibility for policy, control, and oversight of the entire process of recovering and accounting for missing persons (including matters related to search, evasion, rescue, and escape)—a significant mission increase.



DPMO Mission

Lead the national effort to account for personnel missing as a result of hostile action and establish the most favorable conditions to recover those who become isolated in harm's way.



Today, DPMO leads the national effort to account for missing personnel and ensure the nation maintains a powerful and credible capability to rescue those who become isolated in harm's way. We do this while working closely with various DoD components, the interagency community, and our allies and coalition partners.



DPMO Vision

The promise kept
to those who serve in
defense of this great
nation: to bring them
home, honor their
sacrifices and keep faith
with their fellow warriors
and families.



We're committed to those who fell on distant battlefields of the past and to those who might become missing today or in the future, to their fellow warriors, and to their families . . .

--- to keep the promise
--- to bring them home with honor.



Guiding Principles:

- Powerful and credible personnel recovery capability
- Take advantage of the full range of national instruments of power
- Work closely with other nations
- Identify and ensure necessary resource and capabilities are available
- Open and forthright dialogue with the families, veterans, and American public



Pave Hawk helicopter picks up a pararescueman in Iraq



DASD Jerry Jennings discusses U.S. accounting efforts in Vietnam with General Vo Nguyen Giap

Five principles guide our efforts in this task: First, we'll have a powerful and credible capability to recover isolated or missing American personnel by ensuring we have the best trained, best equipped, and best led forces possible. Second, we'll devote all required resources to this effort, integrating the capabilities of all departments and agencies of the U.S. government to achieve this goal. Third, we'll work closely with all nations that can assist us and stress that the recovery and accounting of Americans is high on our diplomatic agenda. Fourth, we'll maintain a close working relationship with Congress to identify and ensure necessary resources and capabilities are available to carry out our tasks. And finally, we'll foster and maintain an open and forthright dialogue with the families of America's missing, veterans' service organizations, and the American public.



We Will Leave No One Behind

“We will leave no one behind in Iraq or any of those missing from World War II, Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War or other past conflicts.”



**Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense**



DPMO Core Functions

What we do --



- Policy, Control and Oversight
- Planning
- Negotiation
- Research
- Investigation
- Analysis
- Defining & Enumerating Unaccounted-for Personnel
- Declassification of Documents
- Communication and Outreach



Pararescuman securing a landing zone in Iraq

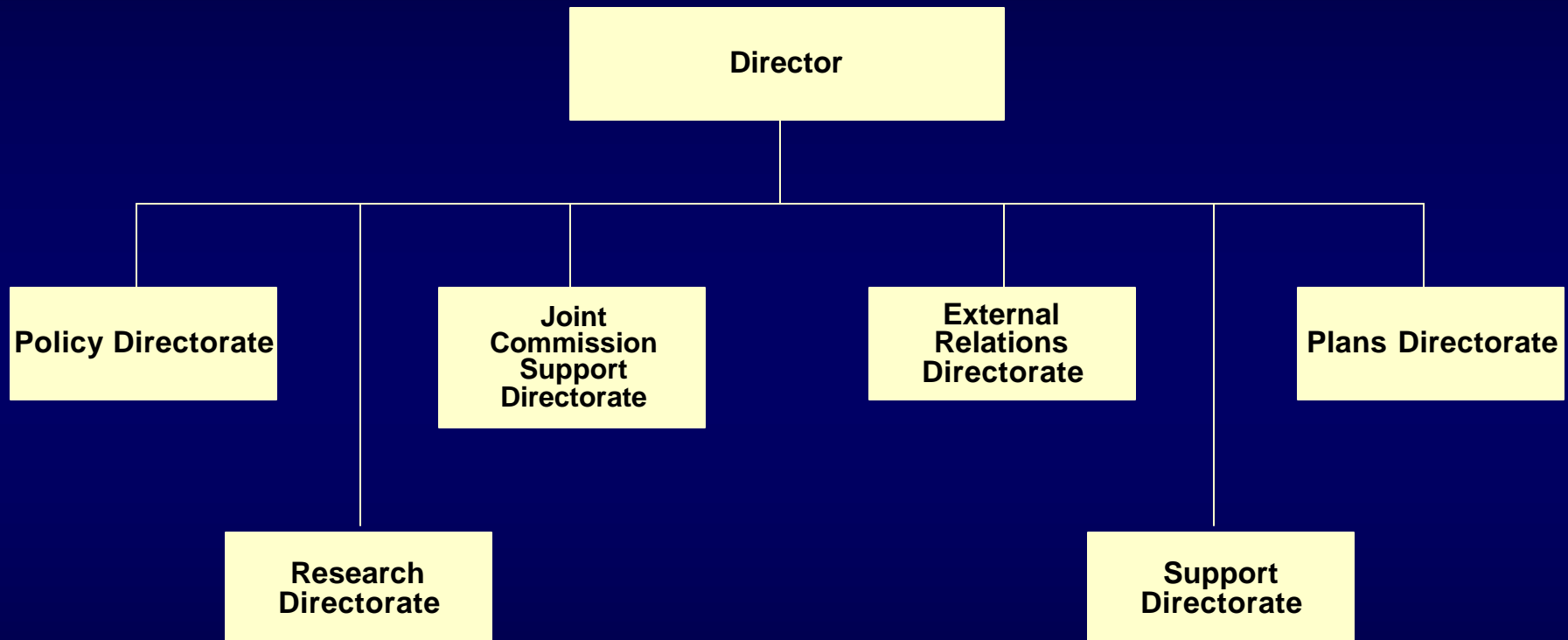


Excavation site in northern Burma

We're a unique organization with two complementary roles. We're both a policy office in the Office of the Secretary of Defense – and a separate Defense Field Activity. DPMO provides policy, control and oversight over both personnel recovery and accounting functions; but . . . in the course of our accounting mission, we also have operational responsibilities. These operational missions make us different from most policy organizations. We provide operational oversight over many aspects of the accounting mission, to include establishing worldwide accounting priorities, and leading the research and analysis efforts to account for Americans still missing as a result of past conflicts.



DPMO Organization



We fulfill these core functions with the organization depicted here, a Director, who also serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, a policy directorate, a research directorate, the Joint Commission Support Directorate, an external relations directorate, support directorate, and a plans directorate.



However Long It Takes, Wherever It Takes Us,
Whatever the Cost, However Long It Takes, Wherever
It Takes Us, Whatever the Cost, However Long It
Takes, Wherever It Takes Us, Whatever the Cost,
However Long It Takes, Wherever It Takes Us, What-
ever the Cost, **Our Solemn Pledge** However Long
It Takes, Wherever It Takes Us, Whatever the Cost,
However Long It Takes, Wherever It Takes Us,
Whatever the Cost, However Long It Takes, Wherever
It Takes Us, Whatever the Cost, However Long It
Takes, Wherever It Takes Us, Whatever the Cost,

A large crowd of men in military uniforms are running forward, carrying a flag. The scene is set against a backdrop of a stylized American flag.

September 14, 2004

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

www.dtic.mil/dpmo/

—Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense

While reflecting on the government's efforts to account for those still missing as a result of past conflicts, the Deputy Secretary of Defense stated the Department's pledge to those who go into harm's way today, "However long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost," this nation will spare no effort to bring our heroes home.



Personnel Recovery is...

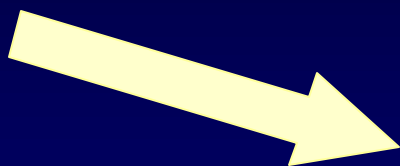


*... everything we do to recover a person
isolated from friendly control*

Our government is committed to preserving the lives and well-being of DoD personnel—and others directed by the government—who become missing, captured, or otherwise isolated from friendly control as a result of hostile action while fulfilling our nation's commitments abroad. We will spare no effort to return those individuals home safely and with honor. For several years, we, along with our partners at U.S. Joint Forces Command, have embarked on an intense effort to develop an integrated process of personnel recovery that fosters robust policy coordination at the highest levels of our government, incorporates strategic and operational planning, and addresses the tactical operations our military forces undertake. The Department's progress in the personnel recovery mission area is evident in the success we achieved during the major combat operations of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. For the first time in history, during the initial major combat phase of operations, we recovered and accounted for all our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and government civilians. This is a great success story, but much work remains.



DoD Personnel Recovery



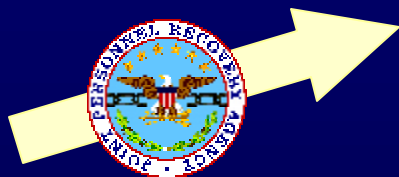
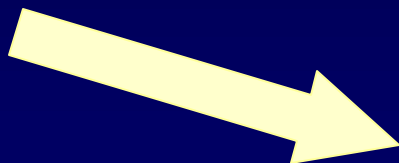
- DoD Components

- USD(P)
- USD(AT&L)
- USD(P&R)
- USD(I)
- ASD (SO/LIC)
- ASD(NII)
- ASD(PA)
- DoD General Counsel
- The Services & USSOCOM
- DoD Intelligence Community
- The Combatant Commands

Personnel recovery is a very broad mission that spans the range of military operations from the Office of the Secretary of Defense down through the Joint Staff to the Services and Combatant Commands. We are responsible for coordinating personnel recovery policy throughout DoD. We deal with policy, acquisition, public affairs, and legal issues concerning the missing and their families, as well as a heavy dose of intelligence activities. We stay in close contact with the combatant commands to ensure our policies are meeting their needs.



Interagency Personnel Recovery



- National Security Council
- Department of State
- Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - U.S. Customs
 - U.S. Border Patrol
- Department of Justice
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - Drug Enforcement Agency
- Central Intelligence Agency (MOU)

We also coordinate personnel recovery activities with the interagency community. For example, we work with the U.S. Coast Guard in support of civil search and rescue activities worldwide. Recent operations also are involving more of the interagency community in traditionally Department of Defense operations abroad. Whether they be Customs and DEA activities in South America, FBI activities in the Middle East, or State activities worldwide, all put American Government officials at risk.



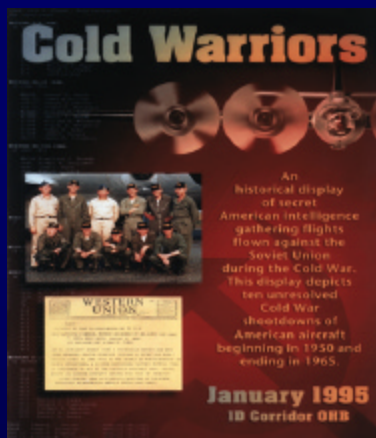
Global Commitment – All Wars



WWII: ~ 78,000



Korean War: ~ 8,100



Cold War: 126



Vietnam War: ~ 1,800

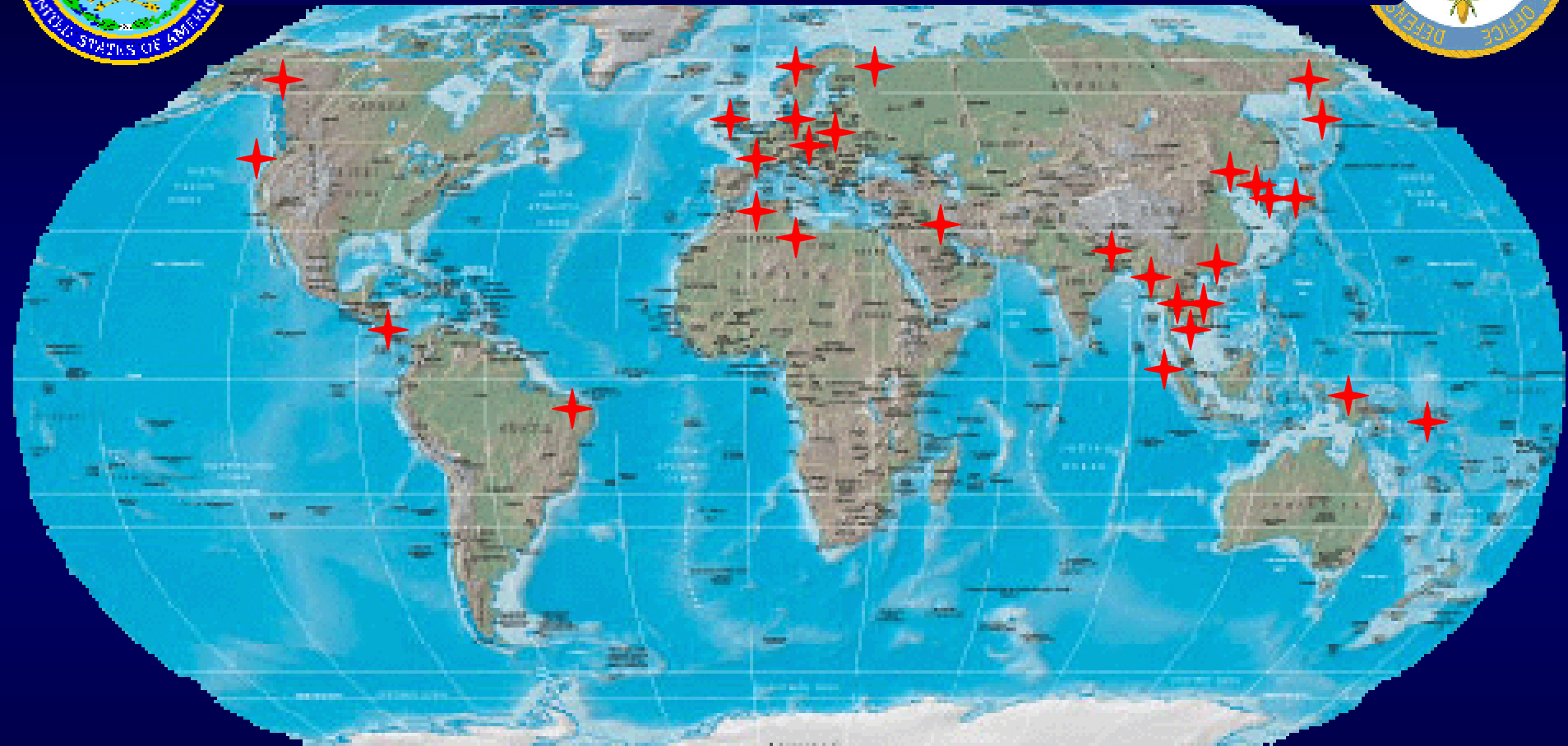


1991 Gulf War: 3

History teaches that while we achieved unprecedented success in our personnel recovery operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, there will be instances when we'll not be so successful, which brings us to the other side of our mission, to achieve the fullest possible accounting for those still missing as a result of past conflicts. In 1993, DPMO assumed leadership, within DoD, for programs to account for almost 2,200 still missing as a result of the Vietnam War. Since then, with the addition of World War II, the Cold War, and the Korean War, our mission has expanded dramatically such that today, DPMO, in partnership with the entire accounting community, is working to obtain the fullest possible accounting for more than 88,000 missing Americans.



Loss Site Locations



This slide depicts the various locations around the globe where we find loss sites. DPMO's accounting activities are worldwide. DPMO is specifically charged with negotiating with the countries in which we have or want to have accounting operations. It is our job to ensure our accounting activities meld with America's policy objectives worldwide. The United States has personnel on the ground in North Korea for six to seven months of every year. We work in countries such as Burma where there is little to no other interaction with the U.S. Government. To have this freedom, we adhere to the basic principle that personnel accounting is a purely humanitarian issue, separate from other matters in our government's relationships with other countries. In January 2004, while speaking about our efforts to account for those still missing as a result of the Korean War, Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz said, "when the issue is treated as a separate humanitarian issue, we can continue to make progress—not only without jeopardizing any of our other policy goals, but in the end, perhaps, even opening further avenues."



World War II - >78,000 Missing



Recent Recoveries

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Burma
- China
- Czech Republic
- England
- France
- Indonesia
- Kwajalein Atoll



Recovery Operation - Makin Atoll

- Norway
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Russia
- Samoa
- Slovak Republic
- Tunisia
- Makin Atoll

Interest in WWII accounting is on the upswing, especially with the recent opening of the national WWII memorial. In the FY00 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress required the SecDef to make every effort to search for, recover, and identify the remains of WWII servicemen lost in the Pacific Theater. While the legislation was targeted specifically at recovering the remains of "servicemen lost in the Pacific," we expanded our global effort to account for all WWII missing—it's the right thing to do. We're actively working to locate for the more than 78,000 still unaccounted for from World War II. As you can see here, recovery operations have occurred in a surprising number of countries throughout the world. Of course, many of these 78,000 were lost at sea or buried with full military honors in national cemeteries as unknowns. It's interesting to note that since 1978, teams from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, now the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, have conducted more than 35 operations in Papua New Guinea, recovering approximately 250 sets of remains. And the operations continue today. Also in regard to World War II, another area of focus for us is operations in the China/Burma/India Theater of Operations. More than 600 U.S. aircraft crashed in this Theater during World War II, and in January 2004 we had our first recovery operation in Burma.



Vietnam War

- > 740 accounted for



Excavation in Laos



Excavation in Vietnam



Excavation in Cambodia

Efforts in Southeast Asia have accounted for more than 740 Americans since 1973. However, more than 1,800 remain missing from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.



Cold War

- 18 identifications



1958 Soviet gun-camera footage of the shoot down of a U.S. C-130 reconnaissance aircraft



Excavation site of a U.S. RB-29 shot down over the Bering Sea in 1952



U.S. Cold Warrior finally laid to rest with honor at Arlington National Cemetery

Recent recovery efforts have brought home 18 servicemen of the approximately 126 that remain unaccounted for from the Cold War.



Korean War

- > 220 recovered



DASD Jerry Jennings discussing accounting operations in North Korea with Korean People's Army Colonel General Li Chan Bok



Excavation in North Korea



North Korean soldiers escort a JPAC team through the DMZ

In 1996, extensive negotiations with the North Koreans opened the door for joint operations that have resulted in recovering some 200 Americans.



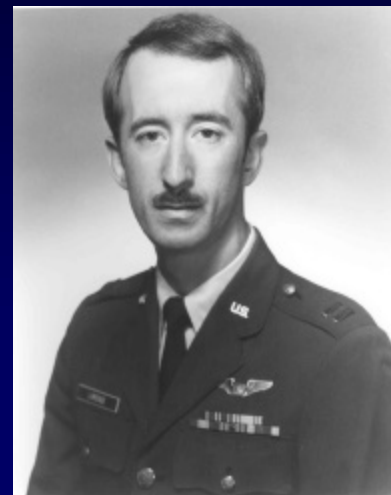
Operation El Dorado Canyon



- 1986 Raid on Tripoli
 - 1 missing



Wreckage believed to be of the F-111F that crashed off the coast of Libya



Captain Paul F. Lorence



An F-111F similar to the one that crashed in Operation El Dorado Canyon over Libya

We recently approached the Government of Libya about two cases of primary interest. One was an F-111 crash that occurred during the 1986 bombing raid on Tripoli, Operation EL DORADO CANYON, in which one pilot remains missing. The other was the loss of a WWII B-24 bomber, The Lady Be Good. In anticipation of someday gaining access to Libya, a DPMO analyst is charged with overseeing these two cases.



1991 Gulf War

- 3 missing



*An FA-18C similar to the one
that Captain Speicher flew
when downed over Iraq*



*Captain Michael
"Scott" Speicher*



*Wreckage believed to be that of
Captain Speicher's aircraft in the
Iraqi desert*

The Gulf War highlighted our success at accounting and reinforced the importance of specially trained units dedicated to search, rescue and recovery operations. One service member – CAPT Michael Speicher -- is still listed as missing-captured from the Gulf War, and the remains of two others lost over water are unrecoverable.



Research & Investigations



- Each war presents different challenges
- Analysts and investigators work together
- Investigations are tailored to each war and to each case



Our research and investigative approach shapes worldwide efforts to account for missing Americans. Each war offers different challenges. Our Research Directorate, composed of area and subject matter experts, has developed unique approaches to resolve cases from each war. In pursuing Vietnam War era losses our analysts work with their counterparts in JPAC and the intelligence community to develop detailed, case specific leads for field investigations. To learn the facts in each case, our analysts draw upon their decades of expertise in working with Southeast Asian governments and bureaucracies. A key component of our approach is investigating cases where the missing American was last known to be alive in close proximity to enemy forces. Resolution of these cases helps answer lingering questions of Americans remaining in captivity after the end of hostilities. There are more than 8,000 Americans missing from the Korean War. Lacking access to pursue full investigations in North Korea and China, we conduct a wide ranging oral history program to gather previously undocumented information from U.S. veterans with direct knowledge of loss incidents and circumstances. We're also working to obtain information such as prison camp records from the People's Republic of China, the nation that held most American prisoners during the Korean War. For World War II, our researchers, working with fragmentary 60 year old data, are painstakingly building a database that will provide important details concerning the estimated 78,000 Americans who are still unaccounted for from that horrific conflict.



Major Investigative Agencies

- DPMO/Research & Analysis and JCSD
- U.S./Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs
- Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
- National Intelligence Community



U.S./Russian Discussions

Several organizations in the accounting community contribute to our research and investigation activities, both at home base, and in the field. Our analysts and researchers coordinate closely with their colleagues in other organizations to ensure the best possible use of all resources and to pursue every lead we can find.



U.S. Russia Joint Commission on POWs and MIAs



*Russia's Tomb
of the
Unknown
Soldier*



***Formed in March 1992 to address WWII, Cold War,
Korean War and Vietnam POW/MIA issues***

In March, 1992, the presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation directed the establishment of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POWs and MIAs.

Our office supports the commission's four working groups:

The World War II Working Group;
The Korean War Working Group;
The Cold War Working Group; and
The Vietnam War Working Group. They work throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe conducting extensive archival research and interviews of officials, veterans, and others.



Other Investigative Agencies



- Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command
 - Merger of JTF-FA and USACILHI
 - Expanded operations
 - Worldwide focus
- Stony Beach Program
 - Dedicated assets for Vietnam War accounting
 - Close coordination with JPAC

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command investigates cases, scours archives, and excavates loss sites to recover remains worldwide. The Defense Intelligence Agency maintains a program called Stony Beach, which works closely with the Joint POW/MIA Command and helps investigate reports of Americans reported to be held against their will in Southeast Asia.



Identification Process

- Locating Remains
- Recovering Remains
- Identifying Remains
- Reviewing the Identification Process



All this leads us to our combined identification efforts. The process of identifying recovered remains follows a logical sequence. Anthropologists from the Central Identification Laboratory of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command supervise all U.S.-led excavations with the cooperation and assistance of host governments. Their supervision throughout the recovery operation helps to ensure scientific credibility of the identification process.



Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command



Remains Identification



Remains Recovery



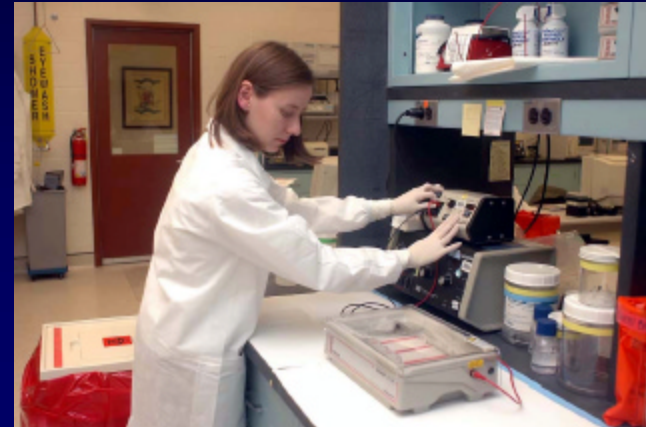
In addition to contributing to the investigation process, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command is the operational arm for remains recovery and identification. JPAC's scientists and recovery specialists sift through data and excavate hundreds of sites to recover and identify remains worldwide. Despite new technologies... fieldwork remains labor-intensive and time-consuming.



Other Identification Agencies



- Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory
 - Premier DNA Laboratory
 - Mitochondrial DNA
- Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory
 - Artifact Support
 - Expanded Mission - Worldwide



The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory matches mitochondrial DNA sequences of remains we recover in the field with reference samples from the families of the missing. Approximately 80% of all identifications made today are made with the help of AFDIL's analysis, so ensuring we have a complete database of family reference samples has become an important endeavor. The Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory analyzes the life support equipment team recover from aircraft crash sites to answer questions about the possibility of the crew surviving the incident of loss. Once forensic scientists from JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory recommend, review and approve an identification, they pass it to the casualty offices for release to the families.



Casualty Offices

- U.S. Army
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- Department of State



Each Military Service, and the Department of State, maintains a casualty office to serve as primary liaison between the family and the government agencies involved in the accounting issue. Once we have located, recovered, and otherwise determined the fate of our fallen warriors, the individual military casualty offices explain to families how we account for their loved ones. But explaining our findings to families does not end our mission. Public interest requires current information... leading to our Outreach program...



Our work is politically and emotionally charged. As you can see, we work with and serve a diverse collection of people and organizations, and interact with them on many levels. DPMO strives to build trust and cohesion among the accounting community ... to forge a team effort...and focus that effort on achieving the fullest possible accounting of our missing.

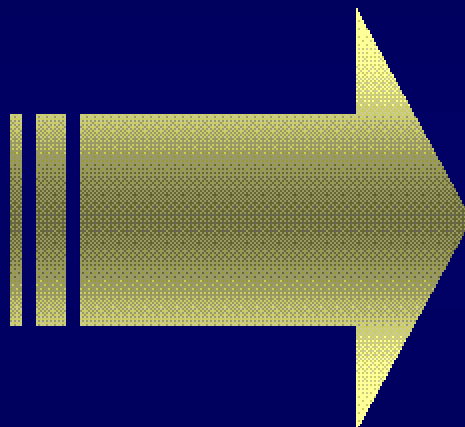


Public Outreach Program



Informing Our Constituents

**EXTERNAL
RELATIONS**



Veterans
Congress Public
Families Media
Military

- **Consistent, Credible Messages**
- **Varied, Overlapping Audiences**
- **Monthly Family and Veterans Updates**

The Outreach Program is the major focus of the External Relations Directorate. Our "Outreach Team" consists of public affairs, legislative affairs, and family support. This team provides information directly to families, veterans and others to ensure an accurate and sensitive message that results in better understanding and support for our mission.



Public Affairs

- Public Speaking
- Special Events
- News Media
- Web Site



*Senator Inouye inspects the Honor Guard at
National POW/MIA Day, September 2004*

To do this, we target a wide range of audiences. We develop daily stories for the local and national news media, both print and electronic. Thousands visit our web site each week and many more readers view our releases on the Defense Department's Website daily. Others receive our news releases by e-mail from DoD. Additionally,.....



Legislative Affairs

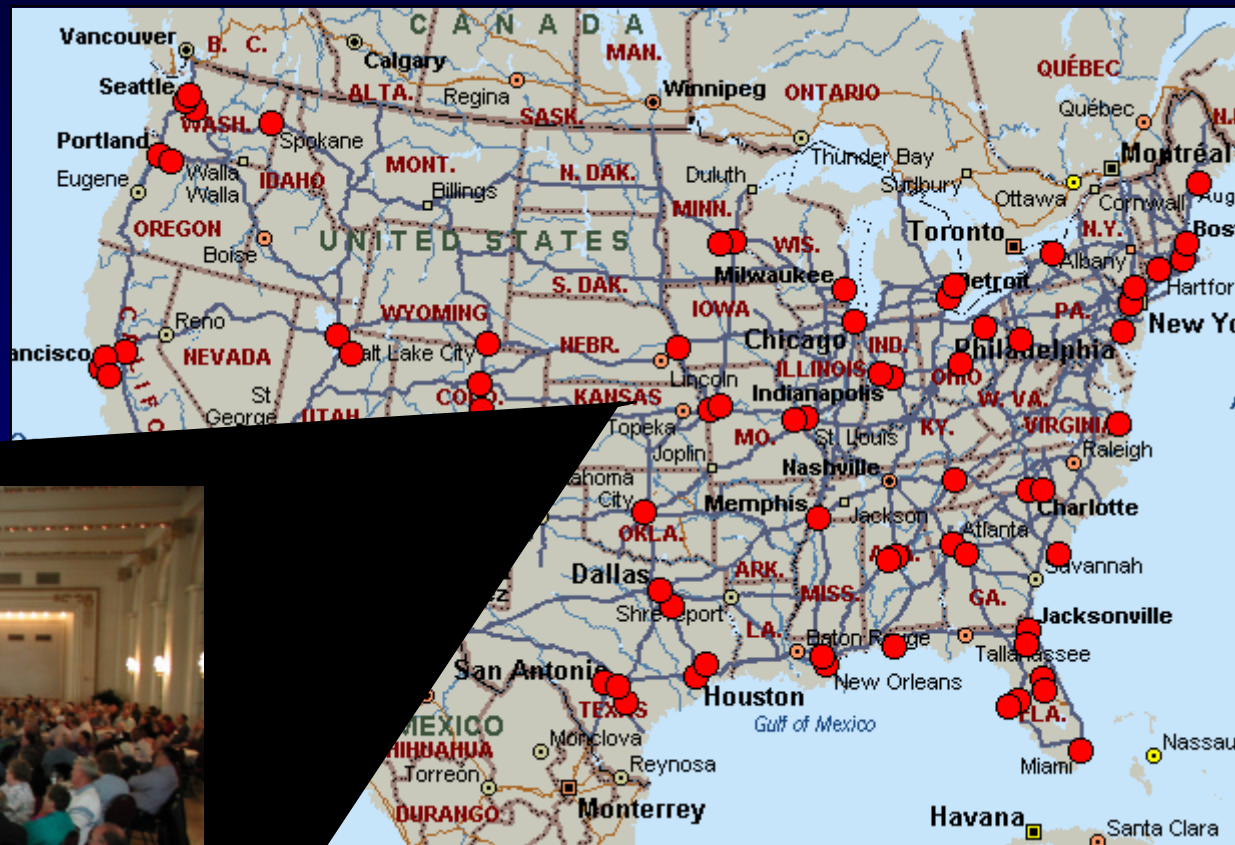
- Congressional Interest High
- Informational Brochure
- Interface with the Hill



Our DPMO staff provides the White House and Congress thousands of oral and written responses to citizen queries about every aspect of our mission. We meet with congressional leaders and their staffs to provide information concerning our mission and activities. But, the heart of our Outreach Program.....

Monthly Family Updates

- Over 90 since 1995
- Over 10,000 have attended



Family Update

● **Family Update Locations**

..... are the monthly Family Updates and Annual Government Briefings. The Family Update meetings ensure that families have direct access to various representatives of organizations that carry out the accounting mission, and that they receive current information about accounting initiatives and progress.



Annual Government Briefings



WWII/Korea/Cold War Annual Government Briefings



Dr. Kaye Whitley and DASD Jennings address the Annual Government Briefings for the families of missing from the Vietnam War

Each year, the Department of Defense will host the annual government briefings for families of America's missing. We normally sponsor these briefings in two sessions, one for the families of Vietnam War missing, and the second for the families of the nation's missing from World War II, the Korean War, and the Cold War. To facilitate attendance by family member outside the Washington, D.C. area, the government provides authorized family members two roundtrip airline tickets per missing American to attend the annual briefings. Similar to the Family Updates, during the annual government briefings family members have the opportunity to meet with numerous civilian and military representatives of the government whose expertise includes: foreign government negotiation, policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research, and intelligence analysis. They also have the opportunity to discuss their loved ones' individual case with the government's experts. In addition to the Family Updates and Annual Government Briefings, we respond to hundreds of family inquiries through the service casualty offices.



They Are Not Forgotten



To reiterate... successful personnel recovery and personnel accounting require an integrated approach. This briefing has addressed how we apply our expertise to implement our strategy worldwide on personnel recovery and accounting, so that we can fulfill our solemn pledge that we'll bring them home with honor—however long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost.